

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /091 W

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R 051630Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0987

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, UK, VS

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO FAR EAST OF BRITISH NUM DELEGATION

REF: SAIGON 6963

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AN OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF
MINeworkers (NUM) INDICATED TO US HIS STRONG SUSPICION
THAT THE DECISION OF THE NUM VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL
MCGAHEY (WHO IS ALSO A LEADER OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST
PARTY) AND PETER HEATHFIELD, MEMBER OF THE NUM EXECUTIVE,
TO CANCEL THEIR VISIT TO SAIGON WAS BASICALLY "POLITICAL."
END SUMMARY

2. AN NUM SOURCE DESCRIBED THEIR PERSONAL DECISION TO
RETURN TO THE UK AND NOT CONTINUE TO SAIGON WAS MADE
ESSENTIALLY TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF GIVING "EQUAL
TREATMENT" TO BOTH HANOI AND SAIGON. (ARTHUR SCARGILL,
WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN THE THIRD MAN ON THE
DELEGATION, DID NOT GO BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS HE HAD
CONTRACTED BEFORE THE JOURNEY STARTED.)

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3. WHEN THE TRIP WAS ORGANIZED, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE,

THE NUM EXECUTIVE HAD APPROVED THE VISIT TO HANOI PROVIDING THE DELEGATION ALSO WENT TO SAIGON. HE CHARACTERIZED THE ILLNESS OF HEATHFIELD, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A "LEFTIST, AS A "BLOODY POLITICAL ILLNESS." HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ARGUE WHETHER A MAN IS REALLY ILL OR JUST "POLITICALLY" ILL. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE VISIT WAS CANCELLED RATHER THAN POSTPONED.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON07033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740148-0094, D740143-0712
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740673/aaaacigs.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 6963
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL TO FAR EAST OF BRITISH NUM DELEGATION
TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, UK, VS, (MC GAHEY, MICHAEL)
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005